

17 January 1947

Memorandum25X1  
From: Capt. Karl F. Poehlmann USN

To: [redacted]

Subj: Exploitation of Enemy Documents (CIG21)

1. Further to the agreement reached in par. 6 of minutes of the Inter-departmental Coordinating and Planning Staff of the Central Intelligence Group dated 11 December 1946 I have contacted the Washington enemy document depository agencies and herewith submit further information in the premises of the possibilities of coordinated exploitation of such documents relating to political-social-psychological warfare.

2. The information furnished by the various agencies expressed the separate evaluations of the document activities as to:

(a) The approximate measure of the quantities of captured enemy documents not processed to date through the abstracting and mounting on accession list stage in tons, cubic, or other interpretable measurement.

(b) The approximate percentage by spot sampling or other more accurate gauge of the total captured enemy documents "not processed to date" which relate to political-social-psychological matters.

3. The current or short-range prediction of the rate of "eating up the backlog" described in sub paragraph (a) above.

Washington Document Center

Report by Mr. Bagnall, CIG

(a) 125,000 documents; 11,250 cu. ft. (est. 75' x 25' x 6')

(b) 70% political-social-psychological

Breakdown: 35% economic, 25% political, 10% social and psychological

(c) Current rate .0

Report by Mr. Becker

From April - Sept. 1946 selected documents in the amount of approximately 15% of total quantity of documents have been catalogued. Priority translating requirements have operated to reduce cataloguing. At present practically all effort is being devoted to translation of previously catalogued documents.

Department of State

Report by Mr. Fox, Foreign Activities Correlations

(a) 17,050 frames microfilmed, 1 frame equivalent to 1 page

(b) Approximately 88% political-social-psychological

Breakdown: 75% political, 10% economic, 3% cultural etc.

(c) Current rate 350 frames (pages) per week.

Mr. Bradford has advised request for data on documents in Europe would be initiated.

Library of Congress

Report by Dr. Clapp, Acquisitions Department

(a) 250,000 pieces

(b) Approximately 1% political-social-psychological. From German bibliography data estimates this represents less than 2500 pieces needing to be processed by research team.

(c) Estimate desired material can be isolated for research team's work in 3 months.

ONI

Report by Comdr. Packard, ONI.

(a)(b)(c) Cataloging practically completed on documents in question. Unprocessed documents, abstracting, etc. negligible. ONI has at present only two to three week backlog at current rate of processing.

German Military Document Section, War Dept.

(a) All documents have received preliminary screening and are divided into four major collections.

(b) 7 tons of materials on political-social-psychological subjects.

No estimate at present available on amount of material in European Theatre, Major Seeley will furnish figure on cubic. Reported: 630 cubic feet.

(c) No progress from point of view of this study until after July 1947 under current priority to examine other intelligence material.

Special Comments:

1. At least one competent man would be required to research the files of Kulturbteilung of the German Foreign Office for the purposes of CIG 21. Such a research man would have advantages of performing his work in conjunction with State Department's Exploitation of German Archives Team at Berlin.

2. Library of Congress indicates two of their unpackers, three examiners, and two repackers might be able to isolate materials of interest to the research team in approximately three months. The Library of Congress would require only such financial support in this project to the extent of pay for two unpackers

and three examiners for approximately a three-month period.

Recommendation:

1. That two four-man research teams be put to the task of accomplishing the purposes of CIG 21; one team to research the materials in continental United States; one team to research the materials in the European Theater.



ICAPS